

Claims 8, 14, 21, 26 and 35 are hereby cancelled, and new claims 43 and 44 are added to attribute each inventor with their appropriate respective inventions. Therefore, please add the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

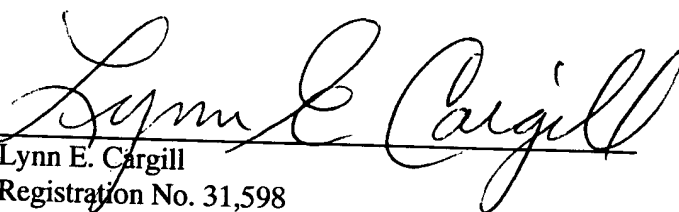
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Please cancel claims 8, 14, 21, 26 and 35.

A' ⁴⁴
~~43~~. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the gas carrier is in line with the gas generator so that the sulfur content of the sulfonating gas may be rejuvenated to a concentration of a level from about 1% to about 20% by volume of the sulfonating gas.

⁴⁵
~~44~~. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of generating a sulfur-containing gas is accomplished by maintaining a sulfur concentration in the sulfur-containing gas at a level of from about 1% to about 20% by volume, whereby the gas may be recycled.

Respectfully submitted,

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